

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

THE FAST-ACTION WESTERN!

AUTHORIZED
A. C. M. P.

CONFORMS
to the
COMICS
CODE

10¢

AUGUST
NO. 46

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

HURRY!
JUMP! WE'LL
BE BLOWN
TO BITS!

I WANT ONE
MORE SHOT AT
THE BLACK
DIAMOND!

YOU WON'T GET
AWAY WITH THIS,
YOU HOODED
DEVILS!

3 feature-
length
thrillerstories
starring
BLACK
DIAMOND
• • •
BUCK ROPER
• • •
RED FIRE

LEV GLEASON
PUBLICATIONS

WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



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LEV GLEASON PUBLICATIONS, INC. Dept. 6
114 E. 32 ST., NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Please rush me the items checked. I enclose _____ and _____ coupons.

Walkie Talkie (enclose 50¢ and 2 coupons)
 Chronograph Watch (enclose \$3.50 and 3 coupons)
 10 Ball point pens (enclose 75¢ and 2 coupons)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

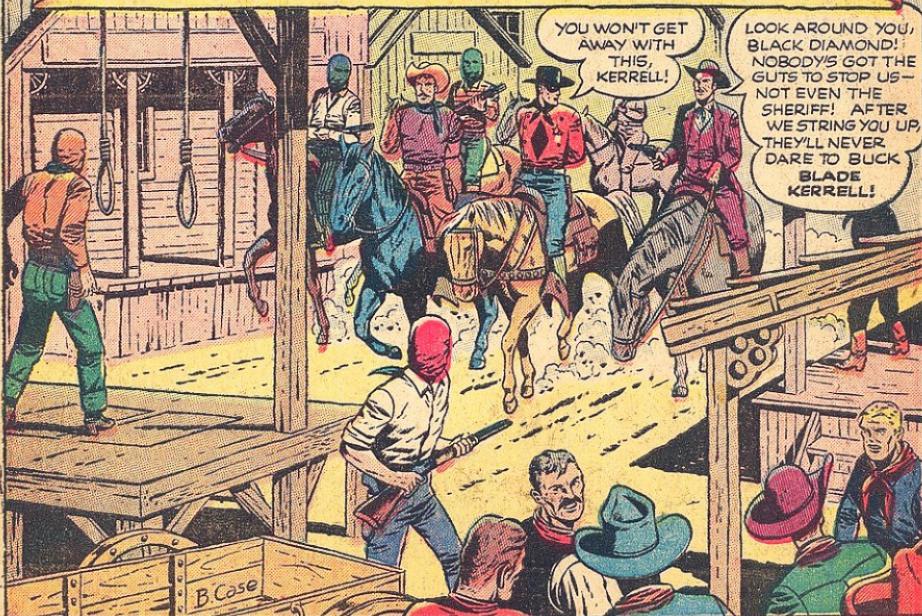
HERE ARE THE WORLD'S BEST COMICS—AND YOU GET VALUABLE COUPONS IN ALL LEV GLEASON COMICS: BOY • CRIME DOES NOT PAY • DILLY • CRIME AND PUNISHMENT • DAREDEVIL • BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN • LOVERS LANE • BOY LOVES GIRL

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BLACK DIAMOND

IN "THE TREACHEROUS RAILROAD WAR"

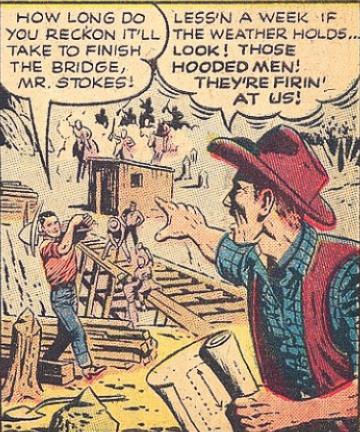
IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WEST, THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD TO A SETTLEMENT BROUGHT MANY ADVANTAGES... MORE SUPPLIES, NEW BUSINESS, AND A CERTAIN RESPECTABILITY THAT BRED LAW AND ORDER! TO CERTAIN MEN, WHO PROFITED FROM LAWLESSNESS, THE RAILROAD MEANT AN END TO THEIR DISHONEST EMPIRE, AND THEY FOUGHT IT IN EVERY WAY THEY KNEW! SUCH A MAN WAS BLADE KERRELL!



MARCH 31ST, 1874, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BRADTOWN WHERE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILROAD BRIDGE IS IN PROGRESS...



MEANWHILE, DOWN BELOW...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

STOKES, FURIOUS, RUSHES TO THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE...

PLEASE GET THIS OFF TO THE NEAREST U.S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE RIGHT AWAY!

THE NEAREST ONE IS THE BLACK DIAMOND! YOU'LL GET ACTION FROM HIM!

BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER WASTED NO TIME HEADING FOR SAN JAQUITO...

WHAT'S OUR FIRST MOVE, DIAMOND?

WE'D BETTER SEE THE SHERIFF FIRST, BUMPER! I'D LIKE TO GET HIS VERSION OF THIS BEFORE WE TALK TO STOKES!

I'M A U.S. MARSHAL, I... UH... WASN'T THERE, MARSHAL! YOU'D BETTER TALK TO TOM STOKES... AT THE JAQUITO HOTEL—DOWN THAT WAY!



...AND THAT'S IT! SOMEBODY WANTS TO KEEP THAT BRIDGE FROM BEING BUILT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO!

THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO FIND OUT! FIRST WE'D BETTER GET WORK STARTED ON THE BRIDGE! WE CAN'T LET THESE MEN THINK THEY'VE LICKED US!



WHAT DO YOU THINK, SAM?

CAN'T HURT TO HEAR HIM OUT!

IT WON'T! I KNOW THESE PEOPLE!

ALL CITIZENS OF SAN JAQUITO ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND AN IMPORTANT TOWN MEETING TOMORROW MORNING TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RAILROAD.



I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT THIS RAILROAD WILL BE TO EACH OF YOU! WE NEED MEN AT ONCE! I PROMISE THAT ALL WORKERS WILL BE FULLY PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES!



YEAH, SAYS YOU! I AINT RISKIN' MY LIFE FOR NO CRUMMY RAILROAD!

YOU SAID IT!

YOU RISKED YOUR LIVES WHEN YOU CAME OUT HERE TO BUILD NEW HOMES FOR YOURSELVES! YOU'VE GOT TO RISK YOUR LIVES TO DEFEND THEM! IF YOU LET THE HOODED MEN GET AWAY WITH THIS, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL TRY NEXT!



THE MARSHAL'S RIGHT!

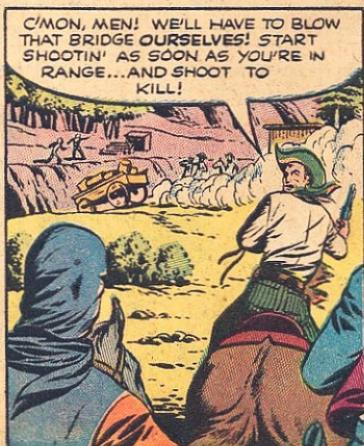
I'LL WORK! FINE! WE'LL START WORK IN THE MORNING! COUNT ME IN!



KERRELL'S GONNA WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

MEANWHILE ON THE HILL ABOVE A WAGON LADEN WITH DYNAMITE IS HEADED FOR THE BRIDGE...





BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AS BUMPER AND DIAMOND WALK INTO THE SALOON...

HEY, KERRELL! IT'S THE MARSHAL!



I'M HONORED, MARSHAL! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL, KERRELL! WE WERE FIRED UP ON BY HOODED MEN, AND WE KILLED THREE OF THEM! THEY ALL WORK FOR YOU: WHAT ABOUT IT?



LOTS OF MEN HAVE WORKED FOR ME, DIAMOND: I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE HOODED MEN YOU CLAIM YOU SAW: GAIN BY KEEPING THE RAILROAD FROM GOING THROUGH, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN WITH ENOUGH POWER TO ORGANIZE THESE ATTACKS!



UNLESS YOU'VE GOT PROOF OF THESE LYIN' ACCUSATIONS, MARSHAL... GET OUT!

WHY YOU...

HOLD IT, BUMPER! HE'S WITHIN HIS RIGHTS! LET'S GO! BE SEEING YOU, KERRELL!



I DON'T GET YOU, DIAMOND!

I JUST WANTED TO GET MY OPINION OF KERRELL AND I THINK WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK! TWO OF THOSE MEN HAD BEEN SHOT INCLUDING THAT NERVOUS HOMBRE SITTING WITH KERRELL! WE'RE BREAKING IN THERE TONIGHT TO LOOK FOR THE PROOF WE NEED!



THAT EVENING...

SEE ANYTHING, DIAMOND?

THERE'S A SMALL ARSENAL ON THE WALL: BUT THAT DOESN'T PROVE MUCH! I'LL TRY THE DESK!



HEY! THOSE ARE THE HOODS!

THIS IS ENOUGH TO ARREST KERRELL, AND IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO PROVE THE REST!

HEY, DIAMOND! WATCH IT!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MARSHAL!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

HAVE THEY HANGED THE MARSHAL AND BUMPER YET, OLD-TIMER?

NAW—THEY'RE IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL... YOU AINT FIXIN' TO TRY AN' STOP 'EM, ARE YOU, JACK? THEY'LL BLAST YOU IN NO TIME!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, KERRELL! THE WHOLE U.S. ARMY WILL BE AFTER YOU!

I'M AFRAID THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU, MARSHAL! I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES!

SUDDENLY A SHOT RINGS OUT...

UGH!!

THE SHOTS ARE COMIN' FROM THAT ALLEY! SHOOT HIM DOWN! WHAT A BREAK! THIS WAY, BUMPER!

HERE, BUMPER—SAW YOUR ROPES ON THE BROKEN GLASS!

THERE GOES THE SKUNK DOWN THAT ALLEY! HEY, KERRELL—THE MARSHAL AN' HIS PALVE ESCAPED!

WE CAN GET GUNS AT THE JAIL! C'MON, BUMPER! LET'S GO!

ONE MORE SECOND, DIAMOND...

THERE! THAT DOES IT!

LOOK, KERRELL! MARSHAL AND HIS BUDDY'RE BREAKIN' INTO THE JAIL!

WHAT? GET AFTER THEM!

TOBY, GET THE DYNAMITE! THE REST COVER ALL THE EXITS! WE'LL BLOW 'EM OUTTA THERE!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



THE END

WIN

THIS CUTE PEDIGREED PUPPY!
OR ITS VALUE IN CASH!

FREE

IT'S EASY!



JUST TWO
THINGS TO DO!

- 1 CHOOSE YOUR 3 FAVORITE COMIC CHARACTERS.
- 2 WRITE THE REASON YOU LIKE ONE BEST
IN TWENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS.

CUT HERE

CHECK THREE



SQUEEKS



GRUESOME JONES



SLUGGER



IRON JAW



SNIFFER



ROCKY X



RED FIRE



BLACK DIAMOND



CURLY



CRIMEBUSTER



JOCK



DILLY DUNCAN



BUMPER



SCARECROW

These characters appear in the following Lev Gleason Comics: BOY, DAREDEVIL, SQUEEKS and BLACK DIAMOND—ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND NOW!

I LIKE _____

BEST BECAUSE _____

Contest closes September 5, 1953. The editors will be the sole judges. In case of ties, duplicate prizes will be awarded. Send entries to LEV GLEASON CONTEST EDITORS, 114 EAST 32nd STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK. All entries become the sole property of the publisher.

NAME _____

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WESTERN ODDITIES



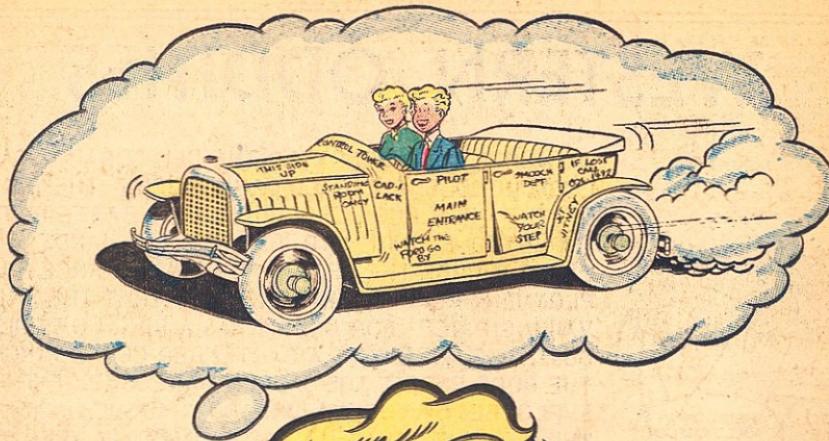
JIM MURPHY WHO OPERATED THE "EL DORADO" SALOON IN COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA DURING THE DAYS OF THE GOLD RUSH, SPECIFIED THAT BARTENDERS EMPLOYED BY HIM, HAD TO HAVE BIG HANDS AND LARGE THUMBS. THE REASON FOR THIS STRANGE EMPLOYMENT REQUISITE WAS THE FACT THAT THE PREVAILING PRICE FOR DRINKS WAS A PINCH OF GOLD DUST. THE MORE DUST A BARTENDER COULD PINCH, THE MORE PROFIT THE SALOON MADE. ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE "EL DORADO" HAD SUCH WORTHWHILE THUMBS THAT HE WAS PAID \$200 A WEEK TO TAKE CARE OF THE BAR AND WAIT ON CUSTOMERS.



RUPE SHERWOOD, THE PROSPECTOR WHO OWNED THE BURRO, WAS THAT HE BE BURIED NEAR "PRUNES". A REQUEST THAT WAS GRANTED.



A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE HEROIC DEEDS OFTEN PERFORMED BY BRAVE FRONTIERSMEN OF THE OLD WEST, WAS THE FEAT OF JOHN (PORTUGESE) PHILLIPS, A GUIDE STATIONED AT FORT PHIL KEARNY IN WYOMING. WHEN A LARGE FORCE OF SIOUX INDIANS ATTACKED THE FORT DURING THE BITTER WINTER OF 1866, PHILLIPS VOLUNTEERED TO GO THROUGH THE INDIAN LINES IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN AID FROM FORT LARAMIE, 236 MILES DISTANT. HE LEFT THE FORT AT MIDNIGHT DURING A RAGING BLIZZARD WITH TEMPERATURES OF 25 DEGREES BELOW ZERO, AND RODE THROUGH THE NIGHT TOWARDS HIS DESTINATION NEAR MIDNIGHT OF CHRISTMAS EVE, 2 DAYS LATER, PHILLIPS RODE INTO FORT LARAMIE, FROZEN AND EXHAUSTED. HIS HORSE DROPPED DEAD AT HIS FEET. HOWEVER, HE HAD ACCOMPLISHED HIS MISSION AND RELIEF WAS BROUGHT TO THE BESIEGED FORT BEFORE THE SIOUX WERE ABLE TO RENEW THEIR ATTACK.



WHY
DREAM
ABOUT
FUN...

...WHEN
YOU CAN
HAVE
IT...

BY READING **DILLY COMICS**,
STARRING **DILLY DUNCAN**, AMERICA'S
FUNNIEST SCHOOL HERO!
ASK FOR IT ON YOUR NEWSSTAND!
IT'S BETTER THAN A DAYDREAM!

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH FOR AN INEXPERIENCED YOUNG EASTERNER LIKE BUCK ROPER TO BREAK INTO THE SMALL CIRCLE OF PROFESSIONAL RODEO RIDERS, BUT IT BECOMES NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE WHEN ONE OF THE RIDERS IS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT HE FAILS!

BUCK ROPER

in

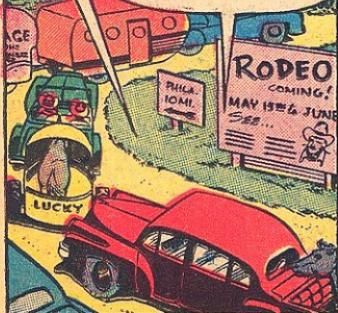
FURY OF THE WILD BRAHMA



AS THE HILL RODEO APPROACHES PHILADELPHIA, BUCK ROPER LITTLE SUSPECTS WHAT IS IN STORE FOR HIM...

WHAT ARE MY DUTIES TO BE, MR. HILL?

YOU'LL START BY DOIN' SOME ANNOUNCIN' AND SOME PAPER WORK AROUND THE OFFICE... WORKIN' ON POSTERS AND THE LIKE!



AN' AS SOON AS THAT LITTLE FILLY TEACHES YOU SOME TRICKS, WE'RE GONNA WORK OUT AN ACT WHERE YOU DO SOME SINGIN' AND FANCY RIDIN'!

THAT SOUNDS OKAY, BUT I WANT TO COMPETE IN THE EVENTS, TOO! THE PROFESSOR TAUGHT ME A LOT!

YOU'LL HAFTA FORGET ABOUT RIDIN' FOR THE PRESENT, SON! YOU GOTTA LEARN SOME MORE 'FORE YOU START TRYIN' TO BREAK YOUR NECK!

YOU'RE THE BOSS, MR. HILL! ANYTHING YOU SAY GOES WITH ME!



Y'KNOW, IT'S SHORE FUNNY CAN OLD BUZZARD LIKE HOTFOOT'S GOT AN EXCUSE FOR NOT RIDIN' IN THE EVENTS, AND DIXIE HERE'S A GIRL, BUT HOW'D YOU FIGURE A YOUNG PELLA BEIN' ON THE PAYROLL WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN SIT ON A HORSE!



QUIT RIDIN'
ME, MONTY!
I WANT TO
COMPETE
JUST AS MUCH
AS ANY
OF YOU!

IF YOU
WANNA
START
SOMETHIN'
WITH ME,
I'M SURE
WILLIN'!

DON'T PAY
ANY ATTEN-
TION TO
HIM, BUCK!
HE'S JEST
TRYIN' TO
CAUSE
TROUBLE!

I DON'T WANT
TO FIGHT UN-
LESS YOU
FORCE ME!
JEST GET OFF
MY BACK!

OKAY, PAL!
I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
WAS SO
SENSITIVE!



HEY!
WHAT
TH...

HA! HA!
HE THINKS
HE CAN RIDE—HE
CAN'T EVEN WALK!



WHY, YOU
LOUSY
LITTLE
PUNK! I
OUGHTA
TEAR
YOU
APART!

I'M SHORE SORRY,
MONTY! I WAS
JEST, PRACTICIN'
A LITTLE ROPIN'!
YOU JEST DIDN'T
LOOK WHERE YOU
WERE GOIN'!

YOU AIN'T
HURT NONE,
ARE YUH?

AAGHH!

C'MON,
BUCK!
I'LL SHOW
YOU A FEW
TRICKS!

YOU COME 'IN
LIKE THIS...
CARRYING THE
GLUITAR, AND...
HEY, BUCK!

HUHZ I'M SORRY,
DIXIE! I WAS JUST
WISHING
I COULD
COMPETE
LIKE THAT
FELLOW!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

YOU WORK WITH A THREE-MAN TEAM! THE FIRST MAN RIDES OUT AROUND THOSE BARRELS, AND BACK! THE NEXT ONE TAKES OFF THE SADDLE, PUTS IT ON A FRESH HORSE, AND REPEATS THE RIDE! THE NEXT DOES THE SAME THING!



THEY USE SPECIAL SADDLES WITH ONLY ONE BUCKLE HOLDING 'EM ON, SO YOU CAN CHANGE 'EM IN A HURRY! YOU'LL BE RIDIN' THE SECOND HORSE - BLUE FLAME! GOT ANY QUESTIONS?



BLUE FLAME, HUH? THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

NO!

THAT NIGHT... STEADY, THERE, BOY!
CLEAR THE AREA FOR THE PONY EXPRESS RACE!
THE TAPE WILL HOLD THIS TACK TILL ROPER THROWS THE SADDLE ON! THEN... WATCH OUT!



GET SET, BUCK! YOU'RE NEXT!



HURRY UP, BOY! THIS IS WHAR YOU'VE GOTTA PICK UP TIME!



BLUE FLAME! I'VE ALMOST GOT IT! EASY, BOY... EASY...



HOLD ON, BOY! EASY...



THAT'S FUNNY! BLUE FLAME IS A VERY QUIET HORSE! ANYBODY CAN RIDE HIM!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

DON'T WORRY, BUCK! EVERYBODY GETS BROKE! LEAVE ME ALONE! I DON'T WANT ANY MORE SYMPATHY FROM ANYBODY!

NOT BY A HORSE THAT'S ALREADY BROKE! LEAVE ME ALONE!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



WATCH FOR MORE ACTION PACKED STORIES ABOUT BUCK ROPER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN!

the End

HEADLINES OF YESTER WEST



JOAQUIN MURRIETA OFFERS REWARD FOR OWN CAPTURE.

On a fine spring day in the year 1853, Joaquin Murrieta rode casually into the town square of Stockton, a thriving metropolis located in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Curious citizens watched as he dismounted from his horse, and strode over to a poster reading: \$5,000 REWARD! Offered by the Citizens of Stockton to any one who Delivers to the Authorities

JOAQUIN MURRIETA, DEAD OR ALIVE. Slowly and deliberately he scribbled something on the poster, then remounted and rode away. Later, startled people who looked at the reward poster, saw at the bottom of it a penciled note which read "I will give \$1,000! Joaquin Murieta!"



GOLD DISCOVERED IN CALIFORNIA.

The first gold rush in California took place in the year 1842 when a Mexican rancher named Francisco Lopez saw some wild onions growing in a canyon near Newhall in Los Angeles County. While in the act of pulling some of the onions for his supper, he saw attached to their roots, what seemed to be gold nuggets. He was correct in his assumption and within a period of two weeks time anxious miners descended on the area and began digging. The first gold rush in California had begun.

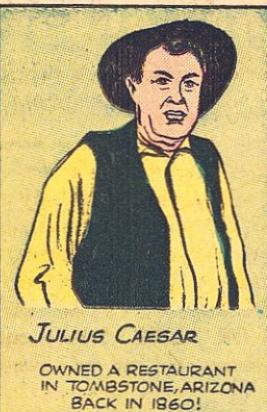
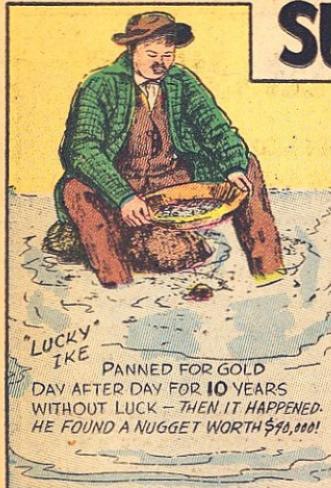


WYATT EARP QUIETS MOB OF 400 MEN.

In 1873 Ben Thompson, leader of a band of desperate lawbreakers in Ellsworth, Kansas, killed a sheriff and defied anyone to arrest him. To add insult to his crime, Thompson's men offered \$1,000 to any person who would kill a marshal. As a last resort the Mayor of the town offered the marshal's job to Wyatt Earp, a young man of 25. Earp accepted,

strapped two guns to his belt and strode into the street to meet an unruly mob of 400 men. Without even drawing any of his guns, Earp succeeded in quieting the mob and led Thompson to the town jail. One hour after having assumed the office of marshal, Earp turned in his badge having brought law and order to Ellsworth.

SURE AS SHOOTIN'!



A WILD HORSE IS CALLED
A BRONCO! WHEN A COWBOY
NEEDED A HORSE, HE CAUGHT
A BRONCO AND IF HE COULD GET
A SADDLE ON THE WILD ANIMAL AND
IF HE COULD GET ON AND STAY IN
THE SADDLE WHILE THE ANIMAL
KICKED AND BUCKED TO SHAKE
THEM BOTH OFF AND IF THE BRONCO
GAVE UP FIRST THE COWBOY HAD
HIMSELF A FINE HORSE!



AT LAST! The New BURGESS All-Purpose Electric Sprayer

The DELUXE LOW-PRICED SPRAYER that NOW SPRAYS ALL TYPES of PAINTS & INSECTICIDES—either water or oil based

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into electric-
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anism
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VARNISH — WATER — GARDEN SPRAYS — INSECTICIDES

A completely new Burgess Electric Sprayer . . . with sensational features that make it the best electric sprayer value at only \$10.95 in America today. Now you can spray any kind of paint and insecticide. No more limited use to just oil based paints, as with previous type sprayers. Now it makes no difference if the paint is oil based or water based, whether it's one grade or another. This new Burgess DeLuxe Sprayer will spray everything . . . even plain water . . . and won't clog or rust and can't foul the electrical mechanism. Use this sprayer with perfect safety. Do a beautiful, professional-type, trouble-free spraying job from start to finish. Exclusive, whirling spinner in nozzle provides a continuous, foamy, even spray that leaves no streaks and over-surface thoroughly. Push-pull spray regulator at top of housing gives instant, handy, thumb-control of spray while painting. Automatic, self-priming pump drains every drop of paint from the jar, right down to the bottom, no matter how often you stop or start. Saves on painting costs, eliminates waste. The new Burgess DeLuxe Electric Sprayer is complete in itself, no motor, no compressor, no complicated equipment. You need no skill or experience—you simply "plug in and spray." The one low price of only \$10.95 brings the Burgess DeLuxe Sprayer to you complete, ready to use. But hurry, the supply is limited. So rush your order on the handy coupon today.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

You must be entirely satisfied and agree that this New Burgess DeLuxe Electric Sprayer is the greatest sprayer ever made. If you are not, return it to us within 30 days for a full refund of your money. We stand behind our product 100%.

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SEND NO MONEY!—Rush This 10 Day Trial Coupon!

ILLINOIS MERCHANTISE MART, Dept. 1709-A
1227 Loyale Ave., Chicago 26, Ill.

Condition: Send me the New Burgess DeLuxe Electric Sprayer on your special trial offer. I will pay the postman your introductory low price of only \$10.95 plus \$5.00 for C.O.D. postage charges. It is understood that I must be delighted in every way or I can return the Sprayer within 10 days for full refund of my money back guarantee.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Enclosed is \$10.95 plus \$5.00 (total \$11.95). Ship Sprayer to me all postage charges prepaid.

RED FIRE

meets

"The RUTHLESS RENEGADE"



WHO WAS THIS MYSTERIOUS FIEND
WHO TERRORIZED INDIANS AND
WHITE MEN ALIKE?

"RENEGADE" WAS THE
MOST UNPOPULAR
EXPRESSION ON THE
FRONTIER IN THE 1870'S!
IT MEANT DEATH TO
INDIAN AND SETTLER
ALIKE...DESTRUCTION
OF PROPERTY, THE
FOSTERING OF RACE
HATRED, THE CERTAINTY
OF DOOM FOR ALL
CONCERNED!

LATE ONE AFTERNOON IN INDIAN SUMMER, AS A STAGECOACH APPROACHED THE LAST LEG OF ITS JOURNEY CARRYING RED FIRE...

IT'S ILLEGAL FOR THEM TO KILL FOLKS, BUT THAT AINT STOPPIN' 'EM!

ARE THOSE INDIANS CRAZY?
THEY'VE NOTHING TO GAIN BY
ATTACKING US!

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIRE
BACK AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!



JIM! :GASP!: I'M HIT! I...
HOLD TIGHT! I'M COMING
TOPSIDE TO TAKE THE
REINS! WELL TAKE THE
SHORT CUT TO TOWN!



I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT
STARTED THOSE REDSKINS
ON THE WAR PATH!

HMM... THEY DIDN'T FIND
THEM RIFLES GROWIN' ON TREES! SOME
LOUSY RENEGADE MUST'VE GIVEN
THEM TO 'EM!



GIVE THE ORDER TO ATTACK! THERE ISN'T A SECOND TO LOSE!

LOOKS LIKE YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT TRIBAL REBELLION WAS CORRECT, THUNDER Calf! BLUE FOOT HAS BROKEN THE RESERVATION LAW! HE'S TAKEN THE WARPATH! I SEE HIM IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE ATTACKERS!

BLUE FOOT IS A MADMAN-A BANDIT! HE BLACKENS THE NAME OF OUR TRIBE! BLUE FOOT MUST BE PUNISHED!



AT THAT MOMENT, LITTLE ELK, SOME INDIAN SCOUTS AND SOLDIERS APPEAR FROM THE FORT...

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THAT'S WHAT I HEARD FROM THE SCOUTS! THAT'S WHAT GAVE ME THE IDEA ABOUT MOON SPARK! WE USED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH HIM! PERHAPS HE'D TELL US WHO THE RENEGADE IS!

BUT HOW CAN WE TALK TO MOON SPARK? HE IS IN THE HILLS WITH BLUE FOOT'S BAND...AND WE ARE HERE!

SIMPLE! WE SNEAK INTO BLUE FOOT'S CAMP AND CAPTURE MOON SPARK FROM UNDER BLUE FOOT'S NOSE...TONIGHT!

:GULP!: WHAT YOU SAY, RED-FIRE? OKAY!

THAT NIGHT, IN THE HILLS NEAR BLUE FOOT'S CAMP,

CALL MOON SPARK OVER AND MAKE HIM STAND NEAR LEAPING HOG'S CLIFF...THEN LEAVE THE REST TO ME!

TO YOU, AND THE GREAT SPIRIT WHO WATCHES OVER US! WE'LL NEED HIS BLESSING TO EXECUTE THIS PLAN!



STAND BY QUIET, WHITE LIGHTNING! YOUR WORK WILL COME! IF ONLY MOON SPARK DOESN'T AROUSE THE WHOLE CAMP WHEN HE SEES LITTLE ELK!



MEANWHILE AT BLUE FOOT'S HOLDOUT...

WHO TAPS MY SHOULDER? :GASP!: LITTLE ELK!!

QUIET! DO NOT BETRAY ME! I COME AS A FRIEND, MOON SPARK! I WOULD TALK WITH YOU! LET US GO WHERE IT IS PRIVATE...



IF YOU HAVE COME TO CHIDE ME, LITTLE ELK, SPARE YOUR BREATH! I GO WHERE MY FATHER GOES!

NOT THIS TIME, MOON SPARK! NOT TONIGHT FOR EXAMPLE!

THERE'S LITTLE ELK'S SIGNAL!



:GASP!: I... MPPPHH!

SORRY, MOON SPARK! YOU'LL DO YOUR TALKING LATER!





WE HAVE A PLAN, MOON SPARK! FIRST, WE WILL WASH OFF YOUR WAR PAINT! THEN DRESS YOU IN A CIVILIAN COSTUME! YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND UNDETECTED UNTIL YOU SPOT THE RENEGADE! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE! COME, LET'S GO!

A HALF-HOUR LATER, OUTSIDE HERRICKSBURG...



LET'S BEGIN WITH THE SALOONS! TREACHERY GOES WITH BOOZE!

ALL RIGHT! BUT REMEMBER, YOU PROMISED TO PROTECT ME!



NOT HERE, EITHER!

WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE, MOON SPARK? MAYBE WE CAN SPOT HIM!

NO! I'LL POINT HIM OUT IF I RUN INTO HIM!



TAKE A LOOK AROUND, MOON SPARK! RECOGNIZE HIM?

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

NO...HE'S NOT HERE!

I NEVER TRUSTED FIRE SPARK NOR HIS MILKY-GUTTED SON, MOON SPARK! MOON SPARK'S BETTER OFF DEAD!

THINK, MOON SPARK! WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE? YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER SOMETHING ABOUT HIM!

HIS MEMORY WILL TURN BLANK IN JUST A SECOND!

RED-FIRE! HE'S SHOT!

I SEE WHERE THE BULLETS CAME FROM! I'M GOING AFTER THE KILLER!



BUT SECONDS LATER...

GONE! HE WENT THROUGH THAT WINDOW, DOWN THE BALCONY AND INTO THE STREET! HE COULD BE ANYWHERE NOW...UNLESS, I'VE GOT AN IDEA! WE'LL RUSH MOON SPARK TO A DOCTOR!



TEN MINUTES LATER, IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...

HERE ARE THE BULLETS WHICH KILLED HIM! THEY WERE BOTH FIRED FROM THE SAME ARMY COLT REVOLVER!

THEN THE KILLER IS ONE OF THE GARRISON STATIONED HERE IN HERRICKSBURG! IF ALL THE MEN ARE MUSTERED OUT IMMEDIATELY FOR INSPECTION, THE KILLER'S GUN BARREL WOULD STILL BE WARM!



SHORTLY AFTER AT THE BARRACKS...

WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT ABOUT? WHY ASSEMBLY AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

SEARCH ME! THE CAPTAIN'S ORDERED A GENERAL INSPECTION!

I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL OF IT! I'M CLEARIN' OUT! I'LL DELIVER A LAST LOAD OF STUFF FROM THE ARSENAL...THEN VAMOOSE TO CALIFORNIA! I'VE MILKED THIS SET-UP AS MUCH AS I COULD ANYWAY! IF I HANG AROUND, I'LL FACE A FIRIN' SQUAD FOR SURE!



A HALF-HOUR LATER...

ONLY ONE MAN DIDN'T MUSTER OUT: CORPORAL JEB HASKINS...WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE POST ARSENAL?

I WAS IN CHARGE, CAPTAIN! HASKINS LAST SALE TO BLUE FOOT!

HASKINS



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AN HOUR LATER, IN THE HILLS NEAR BLUE FOOT'S CAMP...

LET'S HOPE THIS HERB STAIN IS THE ONLY THING THAT REDDENS YOUR SKIN. RED FIRE! GOING BOLDLY INTO BLUE FOOT'S CAMP ALMOST GUARANTEES OUR DEATH!

NO, LITTLE ELK! I'M COUNTING ON FIRE SPARK TO SPLIT BLUE FOOT'S CAMP! FIRE SPARK IS CONFUSED—NOT EVIL! WHEN HE HEARS OF HIS SON'S MURDER, HIS GOOD SENSE WILL RETURN!

MEANWHILE, NEAR BLUE FOOT'S COUNCIL FIRES ...

FINE GUNS! TOO BAD YOUR USEFULNESS COMES TO AN EARLY END, HASKINS! MEN! SEIZE HIM!

W. WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? GIVE ME MY DOUGH, AN' LET ME GO!

THE RENEGADE IS RIGHT, BLUE FOOT! YOU MADE A BARGAIN WITH HASKINS! PAY HIM, AND LET HIM DEPART!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BLUE FOOT DECEIVES YOU. FIRE SPARK! HE IS ONLY OUT TO ENRICH HIMSELF, THOUGH EVEN NOW THE U.S. ARMY MARCHES AGAINST YOU! YOUR SON, MOON SPARK LIES DEAD IN HERRICKSBURG, A VICTIM OF HASKIN'S BULLET!

YOU ARE RIGHT! FORCE AND BLOODSHED LEAD TO DOOM, NOT VICTORY! ALL THOSE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED ME TO BLUE FOOT'S CAMP... GO BACK TO THE RESERVATION!

Y.. YOU SEE, BRAVES? NO! WE TALKED YOURSELF INTO A GRAVE, HERE IS PROOF... BLUE FOOT DESTROYS THOSE WHO STAND IN W. WAY OF HIS AMBITION!

THERE GO THE TWO MISCHIEF-MAKERS - UP THE CLIFF SIDE! SLAY THEM!



MINUTES LATER AT THE CLIFF...

THESE BOULDERS OUGHT TO STOP THEM!

LOOK OUT, RED-FIRE! YOU ARE STARTING AN AVALANCHE!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL BLUE FOOT! I WANTED HIM ALIVE, BUT FATE WRITES IT'S OWN ENDING!

LATER, AS DAWN CAME UP... THE DAWN OF A BETTER DAY...

WE SHALL SURRENDER TO THE ARMY GARRISON! THOUGH WE DESERVE PUNISHMENT, WE STILL WILL ASK FOR A PARDON TO RETURN TO OUR RESERVATION!

YOU'LL GET YOUR PARDON, FIRE SPARK! YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH! TOO BAD WE WERE TOO LATE! VIOLENCE LEADS NOT TO VICTORY, BUT TO DEATH!



THE END

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3 1/2 INCHES to each ARM
and to the rest of my
body in proportion as
YOU can.

Yours *John Sill*
UTAH

Let's go, young fellow,
Now YOU give me
10 PLEASANT MINUTES A
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LIKE SLIM JOHN SILL DID
and I'll give YOU a New
HE-MAN BODY as I gave
MANY Thousands like You

NO! I don't care how skinny or
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OVER by the SAME method I turned
myself from a wreck to the strongest
of the strong. Why can't I do for you
what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of
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CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS
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